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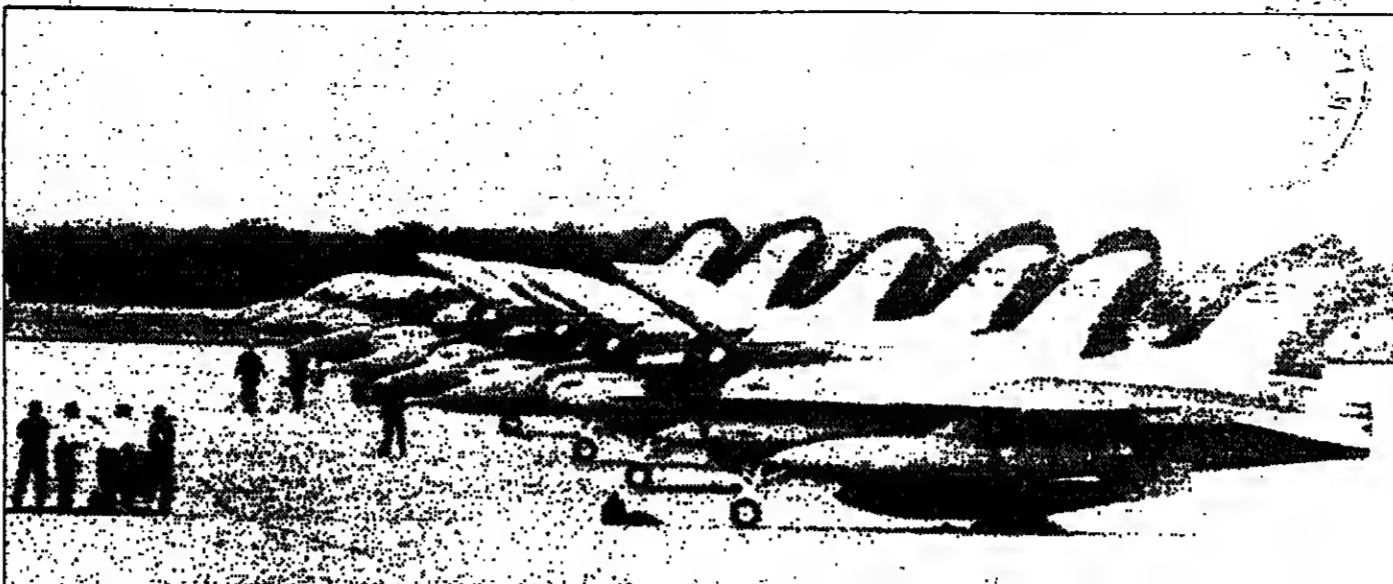
Established 1887

U.S. Ban Lifted; F-15s Set to Go

Release of Airplanes for Israelis Made Without Ruling About Raid

LOS ANGELES — The United States Tuesday made arrangements to deliver a fleet of jet fighter-bombers to Israel without specifying whether the Israeli attack on an Iraqi nuclear plant broke any agreement on the use of U.S.-supplied weapons.

In Washington, Israeli Ambassador Ephraim Evron said that Israel is not "nigger-happy." He indicated that the lifting of the suspension had nothing to do with the shaky month-old cease-fire in Lebanon between Israel and the PLO.



Although the embargo is lifted, delivery to Israel of these F-15s will be delayed to check their flight control systems.



U.S. Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. announcing the decision to end the embargo on sophisticated jets for Israel.

Gap of \$2 Threatens OPEC Bid for Unity

GENEVA — A difference of \$2 per barrel threatened Tuesday to thwart OPEC efforts to reach a unified price, despite a willingness by Saudi Arabia to raise its price to \$34 a barrel from \$32.

Polish Printers Occupy Plants, Closing Papers

WARSAW — A printers' strike called by the Solidarity union Tuesday swept Poland, closing down or disrupting the publication of most national and regional newspapers in the first labor action of its kind in Communist Eastern Europe.

Colombian Guerrillas Overshadow Politics

Resurgent Rebels Reject Amnesty, Renew Fighting

Diabolical Proposals

Speaking at the inauguration of a rural clinic on Saturday, Mr. Urbay called proposals for an unconditional pardon "diabolical."

Japan Acts to Block California's Produce

TOKYO — Japan asked the United States to halt all shipments of California produce to Japan, beginning Wednesday, to prevent the spread of the Mediterranean fruit fly, a U.S. embassy official said Tuesday.



Bill Warwick, an agriculture commission official in Stanislaus County, Calif., examines a vial containing a Medfly. At least 56 Medflies were found and a quarantine was imposed on the county.

Soviet Leaders Appear Intent On Political Answer for Poland

MOSCOW — For a year now the Soviet Union has been faced in Poland with a series of challenges to Communist Party leadership since World War II.

U.S. Unit Asks Funds For Prison-Building

WASHINGTON — An advisory committee appointed by the Reagan administration has recommended that the federal government spend \$2 billion to help the states build prisons and called for the abolition of parole, a tightening of bail laws and many other changes designed to insure punishment of violent offenders.

Air Controllers

In Washington, the National Transportation Safety Board votes to investigate the air traffic control system to determine whether safety has been reduced by the air controllers' strike.

Hijacked Boat

Iranian monarchist hijackers threaten to blow up a seized Iranian missile boat off Marseille if French authorities try to force them back to sea.

Table with exchange rates for various countries including Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, etc.

3 S. Africa Blacks Convicted of High Treason

PRETORIA — Three black men accused in guerrilla attacks were convicted of high treason Tuesday. A crowd of black supporters burst into freedom songs after the court in central Pretoria and blocked traffic. Authorities reported nine persons were detained. The outlawed African National Congress, which seeks to overthrow the white-minority rule, claimed responsibility for the attacks, in which one body was killed. An oil refinery and a police station were the targets. Justice Charl Theron said he would sentence the men Wednesday. They face the death penalty. Previous death sentences in treason cases where no death was involved — have been commuted to prison terms.

Hartman Is Chosen as U.S. Envoy to Moscow

LOS ANGELES — President Reagan announced Tuesday he would nominate Arthur A. Hartman to be ambassador to the Soviet Union. Mr. Hartman, currently ambassador to France, is a career diplomat who has served in Saigon, Brussels and London, and as assistant secretary of state for European affairs. There was no announcement of who would succeed him in Paris, but an administration source confirmed reports that Evan G. Galbraith, a conservative banker, is to be chosen for the post. Mr. Reagan also announced that he would nominate Harry G. Barnes Jr. as ambassador to India and Michael H. Newlin as ambassador to Algeria. Both are career Foreign Service officers, and Mr. Barnes is a former ambassador to Romania.

EEC Asks France to Release Italian Wine

BRUSSELS — The European Economic Community Commission asked France on Tuesday to immediately release Italian wine blocked at customs and end the worsening, so-called "wine war" between the two countries. The Commission's agriculture director, Claude Villain, said that he made the request at a special meeting with French and Italian officials called to resolve the dispute.

U.S. Safety Board to Study Air Traffic Control System

WASHINGTON — The National Transportation Safety Board voted unanimously Tuesday to begin an eight-week investigation into the air traffic control system to determine whether safety has been reduced by the air controllers strike. FAA Administrator J. Lee Helms has said repeatedly that the strike has not resulted in reduced safety. The air traffic control system is being run by about 9,300 people, including supervisors, nonunion controllers and military controllers. The FAA said Monday it is examining claims that more than a dozen aircraft incidents occurred during the first week of the strike. The controllers union released a list of the alleged incidents Monday, including nine near-miss, near-collisions and other reports that aircraft have come close to each other than regulations allow.

Canadian Investigation The FAA officials emphasize that these reports were unconfirmed and that it may take several days to check them out. In Ottawa, the Canadian government said Tuesday that 12 investigating teams had been formed to investigate allegations of last-minute flight rule "occurrences" — described as in-flight incidents which there is no hazard — in areas bordering the United States. Meanwhile, speaking in California on Monday, President Reagan defended his decision to fire striking controllers and said the government had begun taking applications to replace them. He said he had no "choice but to do what we have done. Public employees can't strike."

Ulster Election Tomorrow Will Fill Seat Sands Held

ENNISKILLEN, Northern Ireland — Voters in the constituency of Fermanagh and South Tyrone go to the polls Thursday to elect a member of the British Parliament to succeed the dead republican hunger striker Bobby Sands, but the presence of fringe candidates and the absence of vacationing voters make the outcome difficult to forecast. Mr. Sands, an Irish Republican Army guerrilla, died on May 5 after 66 days without food. He had won the parliamentary seat during his fast, on April 10, by defeating a single opponent, a Protestant. Mr. Sands was Roman Catholic. Since then, Parliament has banned imprisoned guerrillas from running in elections so that none of the men continuing the hunger strike at the Maze prison outside Belfast can take Mr. Sands' place. Instead, Owen Carron, Mr. Sands' campaign manager in the last election, is running as the prisoners' candidate. Moreover, this by-election is not a straight fight. In addition to his main rival, Ken Maginnis of the predominantly Protestant Official Unionists, Mr. Carron faces four other candidates. These are given no chance of winning, but two of them could take votes from Mr. Carron. Turnout May Drop Another complicating factor, the absence of summer vacationers, could mean a turnout of significantly less than the 87 percent who cast ballots in the April by-election. Mr. Carron, 28, an unemployed teacher who campaigns full-time for the hunger strikers' demands for prison reforms, received a ma-

U.S. Panel Urges Building Of Prisons, Ending Parole

(Continued from Page 1) computers to facilitate the exchange of criminal records. The final recommendations differ only in details from the text considered at previous meetings of the task force. But the commentary setting forth the rationale for each program is available Monday for the first time. The panelists said their most important recommendation was the one stating that the attorney general should seek legislation calling for \$2 billion over four years to be made available to the states for construction costs. The panel noted that the Criminal Justice Committee of the National Governors' Association had called for prison construction its No. 1 priority. It also observed that from 1978 to 1981, the number of state prisoners increased by 60,000, to a total of 329,000. Having found an urgent need, the panel said "it would not be desirable to require states to develop long-range comprehensive plans for prison construction. Likewise, it said, the Justice Department should not establish a "cumbersome review process." Terms of Proposal The number of inmates in federal prisons would also probably increase if parole were abolished, as the task force recommended. The panel suggested a system of fixed sentencing of the type favored by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts; but it said that such a change, now embodied in comprehensive criminal code legislation, should be enacted separately to avoid further delay. "The United States Parole Commission no longer serves a public beneficial purpose," the panel's report said. Under the proposed system, the parole board's sentence imposed by a federal judge would be the time actually to be served by a defendant, subject only to modest credits for good behavior in prison. The panel also recommended that Congress permit federal judges to deny bail to several types of defendants now eligible for release — namely, "persons who are found by clear and convincing evidence to be dangerous" and persons who, in the past, committed serious crimes while on pretrial release. Also, it said, the common presumption favoring release of those who are waiting to be sentenced or appealing should be abandoned. In another area of criminal procedure, the panel said that "evidence should not be excluded from a criminal proceeding if it has been obtained by an officer acting in a reasonable, good-faith belief that it was in conformity to the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution." The legal doctrine that now forbids the use of illegally obtained evidence in court is known as the "exclusionary rule." Gov. Thompson said "The public is repulsed by the notion that judges are suppressing the truth in cases because of the way in which the truth was gotten."

Bonn Advises Poland That Rejoining IMF Would Spur New Aid

From Agency Dispatches BAD REICHENHALL, West Germany — Poland's largest Western creditors, the West Germans, have urged the Eastern bloc nation to rejoin the International Monetary Fund. West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher said Tuesday he made the suggestion in talks here with Polish Foreign Minister Jozef Czerwinski. Mr. Genscher pointed out that Poland's return to the International Monetary Fund, which has been under study in Warsaw since early this year, would increase the readiness of other countries to provide aid. Polish membership would enable the fund to set loan terms and monitor Poland's economy — factors which Bonn officials believe could encourage Western banks to extend new loans. Mr. Genscher said there is broad agreement among West Germany's Western allies that Poland should join, and he said he even gained the impression during a visit to Moscow last April that Soviet leaders would not object.

Papers Shut In Poland

(Continued from Page 1) ion away from the controversial food shortage protests that roiled the country earlier this month and toward the twinned issues of access to the media and workers' management in industry. At the news conference at the union's bustling Warsaw headquarters, Seweryn Jaworski, a Solidarity chief in the capital, reiterated the union's demands that it be allotted weekly a half hour of national television time, one hour of radio time, limited space in regional newspapers and the right to publish a national daily. Solidarity already publishes a lively weekly, which continued production normally Tuesday. "We will have more protests like this one if we don't get guarantees of access to the mass media and to the propaganda campaign against us," said Mr. Jaworski, who repeated the union's contention that the government has failed to deliver on promises made in March regarding radio and television time.

Sweden Arrests Peace Worker On Spy Charge

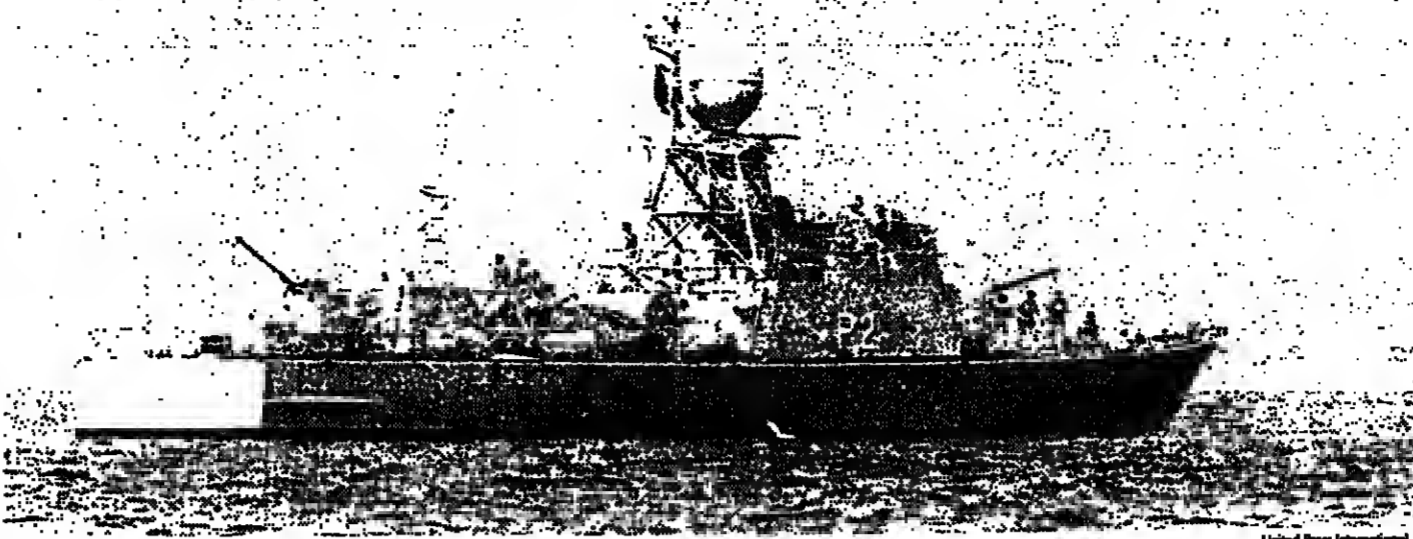
STOCKHOLM — A researcher at the Stockholm-based Swedish Peace Research Institute has been arrested on spying charges, the Swedish news agency TT reported Tuesday. Owen Wilkes of New Zealand was seized Monday by Swedish security police on a court order. A police search of his house revealed that he possessed information on Swedish tactical and air defense control systems, gathered during trips he admitted to having made around the country, the agency reported. Mr. Wilkes, 41, denied being guilty of any crime, saying he gathered information out of his personal interest and had no plans to make them public, TT reported. Mr. Wilkes was recently convicted on similar charges in Norway, and got a six-month suspended sentence for weakening Norwegian security. He and a colleague had published detailed accounts of NATO's radio intelligence system in Norway.

Russia's Mood on Poland Seen as One of Restraint

(Continued from Page 1) settled for a reiteration of the Polish leaders' promise to rebuff "the threat of counterrevolution" and to strengthen Poland as "a firm link of the Socialist community of states and peoples." What emerged from a close reading of the communiqué was how careful Mr. Brezhnev and his Politburo colleagues, Konstantin U. Chernenko and Andrei A. Gromyko, were to have any hopeful expression of views on the Polish situation placed in the mouths of the Polish leaders. The communiqué, after summarizing the steps outlined by the Polish leaders for "overcoming the crisis" — in themselves a highly conservative formulation of Polish policy that would be hardly recognizable to many Poles — offered a synopsis of the Soviet reaction that made it plain that Mr. Brezhnev was not applauding.

New Zealand Rail Crash

PALMERSTON NORTH, New Zealand — Four persons were killed when a diesel railcar carrying about 70 passengers jumped the tracks and rolled down an embankment in this remote region Tuesday, police said.



The hijacked Iranian boat Tabarzin entered Marseilles harbor Tuesday and landed crew members loyal to the Islamic regime.

Iranians Threaten to Blow Up Gunboat Off Marseilles

From Agency Dispatches PARIS — Iranian monarchist hijackers Tuesday threatened to blow up the Iranian Navy missile boat Tabarzin off Marseilles if French authorities tried to force them back to sea. French Defense Minister Charles Hernu said the government had refused to meet the demands and that two Iranian Navy officers were still on the gunboat that was seized last week off the coast of Spain while en route to Iran. The hijackers, members of the Azadegan opposition movement, allowed French authorities to transfer the rest of the 31-member original crew off the boat after the sailors requested that they be allowed to return to their homeland, Mr. Hernu said.

The missile boat was anchored about five miles (eight kilometers) off Marseilles Tuesday. Mr. Hernu declined to say if the boat's original captain and his second were hostages on the vessel. He said the boat was occupied by about 20 heavily armed hijackers opposed to Iran's Islamic regime, and it would be against tradition for the French Navy to attempt to force the gunboat out of territorial waters. "I think the commander of the gunboat will have enough wisdom on his own to take it back out into international waters," Mr. Hernu said. It is believed that the boat has enough fuel to travel about 200 miles (320 kilometers). Two French ships and a helicopter were keeping the vessel under surveillance and a large number of

police took up stations along the shore. The hijackers once before threatened to blow up the vessel in the Moroccan port of Casablanca. Moroccan officials said Monday they provided the Tabarzin with fuel and food Saturday after the threat. Moroccan authorities said the gunboat was carrying a large supply of weapons, including 1,200 shells for a 40mm cannon. They said they feared the Casablanca port area might be destroyed if the gunboat exploded. Television pictures showed the boat flying the imperial Iranian flag. A bearded hijacker, wearing a khaki uniform and armed with an Israeli-type Uz sub-machine gun, ordered the television crew's boat away.

The 49-meter (160-foot) missile gunboat was seized Thursday about five miles (eight kilometers) off Cadix by members of a boarding party from a Spanish tug which they had hired under the pretense of taking a pleasure cruise. A spokesman for the Iranian Azadegan opposition group that claimed responsibility for the raid, which it said was led by Iranian Adm. Kamal Habibollahi, said earlier that contact had been lost with the boat and the group would make no comment before contact was re-established. In Paris, meanwhile, former Iranian Premier Shahpur Bakhtiari, a leading opponent of the Islamic regime in Tehran, announced his support for the hijackers. In a statement to the press, Mr. Bakhtiari, the last premier appointed by the late shah, also urged "all the brave Iranian tribesmen who have announced their readiness to participate in the liberation of Iran" to establish contact with Gen. Bahrām Aryana and join the fight against the Islamic regime of the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Gen. Aryana, the leader of the Azadegan group, is a former chief of the Iranian armed forces who was dismissed by the shah about 10 years ago, but who continues to support the monarchy, sources said. He has lived in Paris since 1972. The Tabarzin is one of three high-speed vessels built in the French port of Cherbourg and departed from France on Aug. 2.

U.S. Transfers \$2 Billion to Netherlands In New Step of Iran Hostage Agreement

By Stuart Taylor Jr. New York Times Service WASHINGTON — The United States transferred more than \$2 billion of once-frozen Iranian funds to a government bank in the Netherlands on Tuesday under agreements signed in Amsterdam, the U.S. Treasury Department announced. The transfer, the first to Iran since January, represents the latest step in the return of Iranian assets frozen by President Jimmy Carter in November 1979, in retaliation for the seizure of American hostages in Tehran. Under the hostage exchange agreement reached by Mr. Carter just before he left office, \$2.3 billion went to Iran in January and \$5.1 billion was set aside to pay the claims of American banks.

The \$2 billion involved in Tuesday's accord represents Iranian deposits in commercial banks in the United States that had been tied up by court orders until the U.S. Supreme Court on July 2 upheld a presidential request that the assets be surrendered to the government. The transfer, the first to Iran since January, represents the latest step in the return of Iranian assets frozen by President Jimmy Carter in November 1979, in retaliation for the seizure of American hostages in Tehran. Under the hostage exchange agreement reached by Mr. Carter just before he left office, \$2.3 billion went to Iran in January and \$5.1 billion was set aside to pay the claims of American banks.

John M. Walker Jr., the assistant secretary of the Treasury who supervised the negotiations from Washington, said Iran ultimately made significant concessions. Mr. Walker said they must receive all the interest on the security account and had refused to submit the issue to arbitration. Mr. Haig said he did not share West European fears that the production of the neutron weapon would increase the danger of nuclear war. The warhead made the West's deterrent more effective, he said. Mr. Issarayan, however, called the U.S. decision a "new step conducive to an upturn in the arms race." "The U.S. wants to acquire a weapon which could enable it to translate into practice the doctrine of a limited nuclear war," he told the Geneva conference. The weapons, he said, are "particularly suitable for confining a nuclear conflict to a given region such as Europe or the Middle East" and will "lead to a lower nuclear threshold."

U.K. Rejects Soviet Claims On Role of Neutron Bomb

From Agency Dispatches GENEVA — Britain on Tuesday rejected charges by the Warsaw Pact that the U.S. decision to produce neutron weapons has escalated the arms race and increased the threat of nuclear war. The Soviet Union responded by calling on the 40-nation Disarmament Conference to draft an international convention banning the production, stockpiling, deployment and use of neutron weapons. British Ambassador David Summerhayes told a conference meeting that it was a fallacy to say that NATO was moving away from the concept of deterrence by introducing the neutron warhead. The United States has decided to produce and stockpile neutron weapons as a means toward countering tank concentrations by the Warsaw Pact, which has a clear numerical superiority of both nuclear weapons and tanks in Europe, he said.

The Soviet chief delegate, Victor L. Issarayan, said that President Reagan's decision to produce neutron weapons would hamper forthcoming U.S.-Soviet arms talks. "For the U.S. to believe that it will thus be able to strengthen its position at the envisaged negotiations is a profound fallacy. It can in no way serve as an appropriate overture to the negotiations on nuclear armaments in Europe."

But in an interview published Tuesday in Bonn, Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. voiced reservations about including the neutron weapon in future arms limitation talks with the Soviet Union. Commenting on a West German proposal that the weapon should be included in arms talks, Mr. Haig told the weekly magazine Stern that it would be wrong to dismiss constructive suggestions. "But on the other hand, I don't necessarily consider it a sensible step in the direction of meaningful arms control discussions to mix apples with apple juice," he said.

British Rail Reports Loss of £37 Million

From Agency Dispatches LONDON — Britain's state-owned railway network lost £37 million (£70 million) in the first 24 weeks of 1981, its chief executive said Tuesday, and he asked unions to call off a national strike. Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, told a press conference: "There are better times ahead of us. To make them harder by a national strike makes no sense at all." Three rail unions have threatened to strike Aug. 31 to press their demands for an 11-percent pay increase awarded by an arbitration tribunal. Miners, meanwhile, promised to give full support to the threatened railway strike by ensuring that coal

normally moved by rail would not be moved by any other form of transport. Underlining further the seriousness of a rail strike for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government, steel workers were expected to give their backing to the rail unions. "No coal normally moved by rail will be moved by any other form of transport," the mine workers' union general secretary, Lawrence Daly, said after meeting the National Union of Railwaymen leader, Sidney Weighell. More than 70 percent of coal is carried by rail, mainly to the nation's power stations. Earlier Tuesday, rail union leaders took a tough line, saying the

system's problems were caused by a lack of government investment. The unions demand the full 11-percent increase without any strings attached. British Rail says it will pay 8 percent, with the remainder contingent on improved productivity and a reduction of 38,000 jobs through less restrictive union practices. In June, the Conservative government agreed in principle to electrification of the rail system, containing investment of several hundred million pounds over the next 10 years. But Conservative ministers said the plan — still to be worked out in detail — would be contingent on an increase in productivity.

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CIA Chief To Correct Fiscal Data

Casey Will Include Omitted \$250,000

By Edward T. Pound
WASHINGTON — A U.S. ethics agency has released documents showing that William J. Casey, the director of central intelligence, would amend his personal financial disclosure report to include additional assets worth more than \$250,000.

Those holdings were not reported by Mr. Casey, a multimillionaire, in the disclosure he submitted to the Federal Office of Government Ethics on Jan. 12.

The ethics agency on Monday released correspondence from Mr. Casey and the Central Intelligence Agency showing that the director planned to amend his report to reflect his interests in 10 additional companies or ventures. Mr. Casey, the documents show, also informed the ethics agency that he had three contingent liabilities totaling \$472,000 in which he had guaranteed repayment of loans, and a direct liability of \$18,000.

The Ethics in Government Act of 1978, under which Mr. Casey submitted his disclosure statement, requires a U.S. official to disclose holdings valued in excess of \$1,000. The law permits the Justice Department to bring a civil suit against an official who "knowingly or willfully" fails to report required information.

Senate Review
Mr. Casey has said that he inadvertently failed to report some information on his January statement. J. Jackson Walker, the director of the ethics agency, said there was no basis to believe that Mr. Casey's failure was intentional, and he said the matter would not be referred to the Justice Department.

The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is now reviewing Mr. Casey's financial activities and his appointment of Max C. Hugel as chief of clandestine operations at the CIA. The inquiry was prompted by Mr. Hugel's resignation last month in the midst of charges that he had engaged in financial improprieties while in private business.

On July 28, Mr. Casey reported that he had inadvertently failed to disclose stock holdings in three companies — Vanguard Ventures, Investment Banking Firm, SMC Information Co., which is engaged in publishing; and Energy Transition Corp., an energy-related concern. He valued those holdings at \$75,000.

Mr. Casey acted after The New York Times disclosed that he had not reported his Vanguard Ventures stock on his ethics statement.

On Friday, Ernest Mayerfeld, a CIA ethics official, notified the ethics agency that Mr. Casey's investment adviser had made an "extensive review" of the director's personal records and discovered additional holdings in seven business ventures that had not been previously reported.

Blast Kills 3 Syrians in Government Office
The Associated Press
DAMASCUS — A powerful explosion started a fire that raged through a Syrian government building, killing at least three employees, officials said.

Premier Abdul Raouf al-Kasbi and other Cabinet ministers whose offices are in the five-story building were away attending a special session of Parliament at the time of the explosion Monday. An official said the explosion was caused by a short circuit in an electrical wire.



U.S. Marines from the 38th Marine Amphibious Unit during an exercise at the U.S. Naval Base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. Some 400 Marines participated in the early morning operation.

Cubans Open Post to Let U.S. Reporters Observe Naval Exercise at Guantánamo

By Don Shannon
Los Angeles Times Service
GUANTANAMO, Cuba — The Cuban government has opened its "front-line" defenses on the perimeter of the U.S. naval base near here to let American reporters watch U.S. Marines conduct a helicopter landing and simulated evacuation of dependents.

The reporters were taken Monday by Soviet-built trucks along the barbed-wire fence that circles the U.S. base — the 10-yard-wide strip between the two outer fences is plowed and mined — to Picote Point, a 900-foot (270-meter) peak on the east of the harbor that affords a panoramic view of the landing area about a mile away.

The USS Guam, a helicopter carrier, stood just off the entrance to the bay, and the helicopters, CH-46 Sea Knights and CH-53 Sea Stallions, moved toward the landing area. Later, the carrier steamed into the harbor to begin loading. Marines representing civilian dependents who would have to leave the base in time of danger.

Radio Contact
For probably the first time since early in the Cuban revolution, direct radio communication was established between the observation post and Americans inside the reservation. Television crews with two-way radios made contact with colleagues inside the base who had

been flown south by the U.S. Navy from Norfolk, Va. The Navy at first declined to admit the press to cover the exercise, but after learning of the Cuban government invitation to U.S. news media, it extended an invitation on its own last Thursday.

Why the Cubans opened the highly restricted area to foreign journalists remains a puzzle. Lt. Col. Angel Rodriguez, chief information officer of the Cuban armed forces, who served as host for the visit, said that he was unable to say why his government had put on the red-carpet tour.

"Perhaps because of the Carter administration's policy of reinforcing U.S. defenses in the Caribbean, there is a special interest," Col. Rodriguez said.

From what could be seen from the observation post, the Guantánamo "Operation Reinforce," as it was named by the Department of Defense, was not impressive. U.S. outposts along the frontier, painted with American flags facing toward Cuban territory, appeared empty. The base, far below, looked nearly deserted.

Col. Rodriguez, the Cuban spokesman, said that he understood the maneuver would be similar to one in 1979, when nearly 1,800 Marines came ashore in amphibious landing craft. The number participating in the helicopter exercises this year was

only about 400, according to reports received outside the base. The Cubans had said Sunday, when the two dozen U.S. reporters arrived in the town of Guantánamo, that other nations would participate in the maneuvers at the U.S. base. On Monday, however, it was clear that only Americans were participating in the exercise.

Total Exercise
Col. Rodriguez told reporters that the total exercise in several parts of the Caribbean involved five Latin American nations — Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Venezuela and Colombia — as well as Britain and France, with 120,000 men, 250 ships and 1,000 planes taking part.

The Guantánamo exercises are part of multi-phased naval maneuvers, announced on July 22, involving 14 countries, including five Latin American nations, and ranging from the Atlantic to the Baltic. The Caribbean phase, which is to last until Aug. 20 and includes the Guantánamo exercises, involves about 6,000 men and women and 16 ships from the United States, the Netherlands and Britain.

Col. Rodriguez described the Guantánamo base as no longer having any role in American defense because it has been outmoded by modern techniques. "It's only a base for aggression," Col. Rodriguez asserted. "We consider this exercise today another example of the aggressive policy of the United States. But we are calm and not afraid."

Canadian Liberals Lose 2 Elections

OTTAWA — The ruling Liberal Party has lost two important federal by-elections after successful attacks by opposition candidates on the government's economic policies.

In Joliette, Quebec, Roch LaSalle, the Conservative candidate, was elected Monday with 64 percent of the vote, regaining the seat he had left for an unsuccessful try at Quebec provincial politics. The Liberals held the remaining 74 seats from the province.

In a Toronto district, the Liberal candidate, Jim Coultas, formerly a key aide to Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, was defeated by Daniel Heap, an Anglican priest who was the New Democratic Party candidate. Mr. Coultas, a leading contender for a Cabinet post, lost Monday despite intensive campaigning on his behalf by senior federal Cabinet ministers and Liberal politicians.

South American Network Deal in Children

Infants Bought or Abducted in 3 Nations, Sold to Europeans

By Warren Hoge
New York Times Service

BOGOTA — The authorities have uncovered a multimillion-dollar international ring in which hundreds of poor Andean children were kidnapped or bought from their mothers and sold under forged birth certificates and adoption papers to childless couples outside the country.

A Bogota lawyer has been jailed on charges involving the smuggling abroad of 500 to 600 youngsters from Colombia and possibly 100 more from Peru. In neighboring Ecuador, officials have turned up more than a hundred questionable adoptions by Italian families.

The Colombian network is said to have included three juvenile court judges, doctors, nurses in two maternity clinics, officials of the government's family welfare agency, several secretaries and housewives and a Colombian consul in Spain. Among those charged in Peru is an official of the government unit that handles international earthquake aid. The principal figure arrested so far in the Ecuadorian cases is the president of the national children's court.

Some babies were obtained through nurses who told mothers that their offspring had been born dead and passed the infants along to the lawyer. Others were kidnapped or bought from impoverished peasant women. At times members of the organization were sent out to patrol the city's red-light district to find pregnant prostitutes and persuade them to sell their babies.

\$10,000 to \$15,000 per Child
An investigation showed that the foreign couples paid \$10,000 to \$15,000 a child. There was no indication that the couples were aware of the group's methods of obtaining the children. Both the Colombian authorities and diplomats in Bogota believe there is almost no chance that any attempt will be made to repatriate youngsters already abroad.

According to the 10,000 pages of evidence in the offices of the investigating magistrate, the imprisoned lawyer, Roberto Vasquez Morales, a 43-year-old father of five, has made \$7 million since resigning his post at the government family welfare agency four years ago and setting up his operation.

The babies were sold to couples from Spain, Italy, France, the Netherlands and Sweden. Investigators have turned up no one in the United States who dealt with

Mr. Vasquez, and they are investigating the possibility that American couples dealt with his wife, Lucia, on trips she made to the United States.

There is no shortage of adoptable children in Colombia, but the paperwork and minimum two-month delays in arranging legal exchanges made Mr. Vasquez's two to five-day transactions attractive to foreigners.

According to Juan Jacobo Muñoz, director of the Colombian Family Welfare Institute, 600 of the approximately 2,000 children born daily in Colombia are outside of any normal family structure. "The majority of them don't have last names and don't know who their father is. Because of this, we have hundreds of children abandoned on streets, in hospitals and schools every day," he said.

Europeans Preferred
Adoption, he said, had stopped being a social service and had become a business. "The lawyers prefer to give a child to a European couple who is willing to spend

\$10,000 rather than to a Colombian who offers much less and pays in pesos," he said.

The Bogota-based ring came to light through the efforts of a peasant farmer in the mountain hamlet of La Vega to locate two of his children, who disappeared one afternoon while playing by a highway. It turned out that 7-year-old Maria Helena Ramirez and her 8-year-old brother, Jose Daniel, had been kidnapped by a man and a woman who hired them into a limousine, offered them caramels, dressed them in new clothes and took them to Bogota, 40 miles away.

There they were put into one of five hostels that Mr. Vasquez maintained in the capital to house expectant mothers and his sequestered wards. When the father, Jorge Ramirez, found his son's torn yellow trousers and his daughter's flowered smock by the road, he began a search that, with the help of a relative, led to Mr. Vasquez in Bogota.

The lawyer returned the children to the relative and paid her \$600

not to talk about the matter. Plainclothes policemen of the Administrative Security Department learned of the episode, however, and the youngsters later identified Mr. Vasquez as the "Dr. Roberto" who had picked them up on the road.

The authorities found eight children, ranging from 3 months to 6 years old, being held in a Bogota bouse awaiting the arrival of foreign couples to whom they had been promised.

Among those prepared to testify in the Vasquez case is Gladys Azuero, a 19-year-old illiterate peasant who, after becoming pregnant, went to the Colombian Family Welfare Institute for help. An agency functionary referred her to Mr. Vasquez, who lodged her in one of his rooming houses and offered her \$800 for her child.

When she eventually decided she wanted to keep the infant, one of Mr. Vasquez's aides took it from her by force. She has not seen her child since. The only payment she received was \$3 for bus fare back to her village.

Growing Illegal Traffic in Rare Animals Brings Tougher Penalties in U.S. Courts

By Thomas O'Toole
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — When Henry Molt, a Philadelphia reptile dealer, met his shipment of almost 1,000 iguanas, crocodiles, pythons, dead adders and monitor lizards at a New York pier, he was quizzed at length by customs agents about why such rare reptiles had arrived by way of Switzerland.

His answers did not satisfy the Customs Service, and an agent was sent to Philadelphia to check Mr. Molt's records. The agent in turn was not satisfied; there was something fishy about the way Mr. Molt kept records, about the documentation that the rare tortoises from Madagascar and the even rarer iguanas from the Fiji Islands were legitimate.

Pressed for more answers, Mr. Molt gathered up the iguanas and lizards he had not already sold — some had gone for \$1,000 apiece — and bolted for the Pine Barrens of New Jersey, where he killed and buried the reptiles. Right behind him, customs agents dug up the evidence and took their case against Mr. Molt to the Justice Department.

Two months ago, Mr. Molt was sentenced by a federal judge in Philadelphia to nine months in prison for criminal violation of laws protecting endangered and threatened species of animals. He is now in Allenwood Prison in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Molt is one of a growing number of dealers in rare animals, especially reptiles and birds, who are being fined and imprisoned for smuggling animals into the United States from tropical habitats and for illegally dealing in domestic animals protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

In the last 18 months, federal

courts have imposed 23 jail sentences of up to five years and another 15 of up to five months, levied fines of more than \$125,000 and placed dealers on more than 130 years of probation for violations of wildlife statutes.

"The courts have begun to treat this illegal dealing in rare wildlife as a serious criminal activity," said Kenneth Berlin, chief of the Wildlife Section of the Justice Department's Lands Division. "We are now getting stiffer sentences, substantial fines and longer periods of probation for wildlife violations."

Mr. Berlin estimates the illegal traffic in rare wildlife in the United States at between \$50 million and \$100 million a year. He said that between 25,000 and 50,000 parrots alone are smuggled into the country every year from Mexico and Central America, that 100,000 poisonous snakes are illegally shipped through the mails every year, and that the traffic in such endangered and threatened domestic birds as bald eagles, scissor-tail flycatchers, broad-winged hawks, Carolina parakeets and California condors is on the increase.

Parrots and Macaws
The largest illegal traffic is in reptiles and birds, in part because of the proliferation of game ranches and private collectors and in part because many species are nearing extinction.

"Some people just want the rarest things and don't care how they get them," Mr. Berlin said. "They don't necessarily make good pets, but people want them and will buy them."

The largest traffic in illegal wildlife is in parrots and macaws, whose exotic and colorful species are being plundered in record numbers for private collectors.

Australia Gets Taut Budget; No Tax Cuts

By Reuters

CANBERRA, Australia — Australia Tuesday announced an austere budget without tax concessions as Treasurer John Howard stressed the need to continue the fight against inflation to maintain rising living standards.

Mr. Howard's budget speech was as uncompromising as the last two he has made in Parliament in its emphasis on the need for wage restraint and careful economic management if Australia is to gain the full benefits of its current boom in resources.

Restraint of growth in govern-

ment spending was a key budget theme, as well as continued restraint on the money supply, with a target range of 10 percent to 11 percent on any increases for the year.

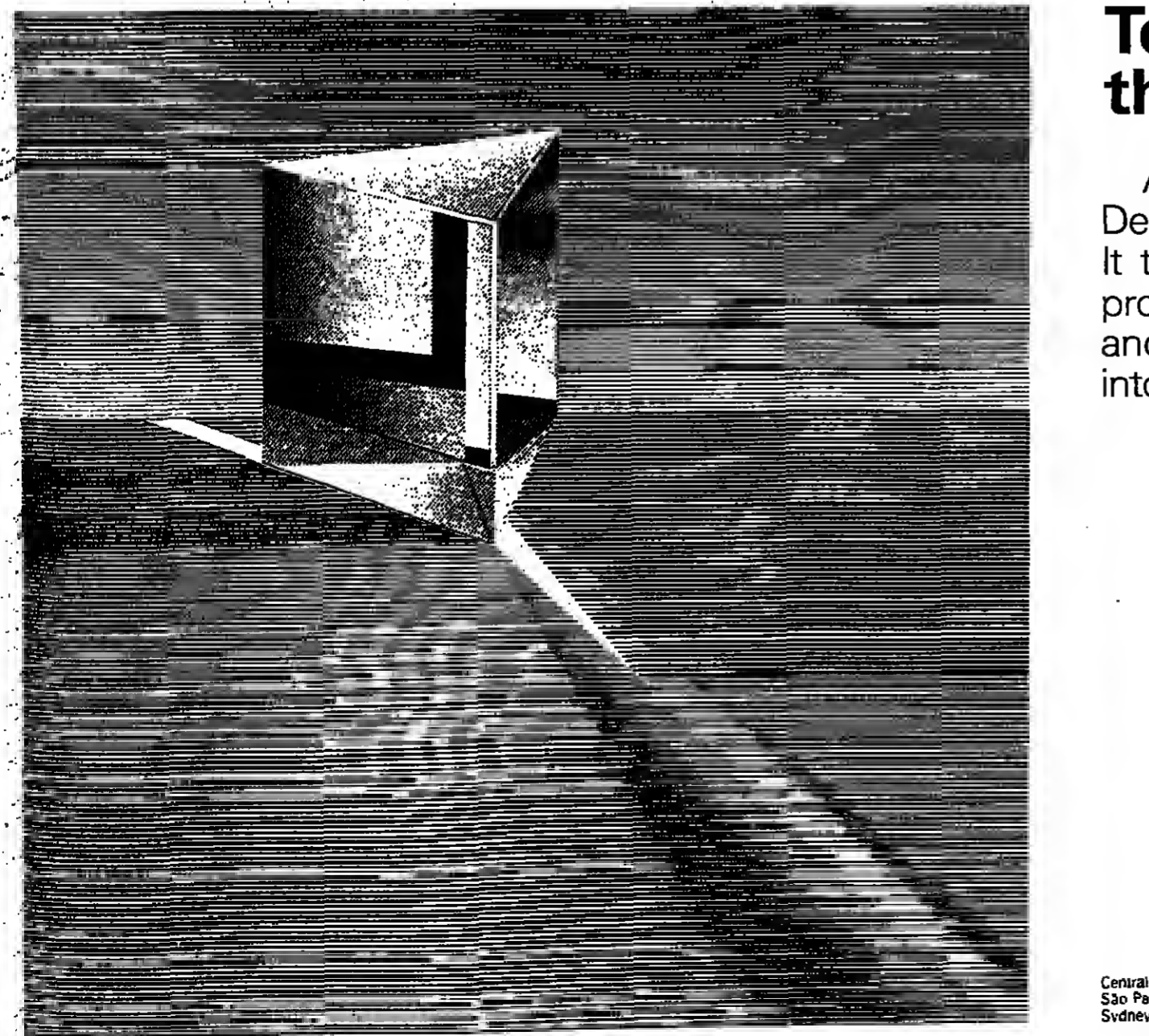
While there was no increase in taxes on tobacco or alcohol for the 1981-82 financial year ending next June 30, Mr. Howard raised sales taxes on a small number of goods by 2.5 per cent and extended the range of the tax to cover a large number of consumer goods.

With the economy going from strength to strength, many people had hoped for tax cuts. But the

treasurer made it clear that with wages rising in response to the boom and after the recent breakdown of the wage indexation system, the Conservative government will not boost inflation by putting more money into circulation.

"A less firm budget, while easier to prepare, would carry with it a real risk of a fresh outbreak of inflation, undermining prospects for the years ahead," he said.

"Australia is doing better than many countries in containing inflationary pressures. Our aim is to keep it that way."



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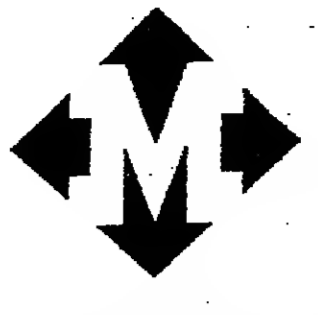


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NYSE Nationwide Trading Closing Prices Aug. 18

Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street.

15 Month High Low Div. in 5 Yld. P/E 52	12 Month Stock High Low Div. in 5 Yld. P/E 52	12 Month Stock High Low Div. in 5 Yld. P/E 52	12 Month Stock High Low Div. in 5 Yld. P/E 52	12 Month Stock High Low Div. in 5 Yld. P/E 52	12 Month Stock High Low Div. in 5 Yld. P/E 52	12 Month Stock High Low Div. in 5 Yld. P/E 52	12 Month Stock High Low Div. in 5 Yld. P/E 52	12 Month Stock High Low Div. in 5 Yld. P/E 52
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(Continued on Page 9)

NYSE Nation-wide Trading Closing Prices Aug. 18

Table of NYSE Nation-wide Trading Closing Prices Aug. 18, listing various stocks and their prices.

U.S. COMMODITY PRICES

Table of U.S. Commodity Prices, including Chicago Futures, International Monetary Market, and Tokyo Exchange.

European Gold Markets

Table of European Gold Markets, listing gold prices in various European currencies.

Toronto Stocks

Table of Toronto Stocks, listing closing prices for various Canadian equities.

Selected Over-the-Counter

Table of Selected Over-the-Counter stocks, listing prices for various OTC securities.

London Metals Market

Table of London Metals Market, listing prices for various metals.

Tokyo Exchange

Table of Tokyo Exchange, listing prices for various Japanese securities.

Cash Prices

Table of Cash Prices, listing various commodity and financial instrument prices.

Gold Options

Table of Gold Options, listing prices for various gold call and put options.

Montreal Stocks

Table of Montreal Stocks, listing closing prices for various Canadian equities.

Canadian Indexes

Table of Canadian Indexes, listing various Canadian market indices.

Paris Commodities

Table of Paris Commodities, listing prices for various commodities in Paris.

Market Summary

Table of Market Summary, listing NYSE Most Active stocks.

Dividends

Table of Dividends, listing dividend payments for various companies.

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AMEX Nationwide Trading Closing Prices Aug. 18

Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street.

Large table of AMEX stock prices with columns for stock name, price, and change. Includes various symbols like AAV, AIC, etc.

U.S. to Help Thrifts Improve Balance Sheets

By Clyde H. Farnsworth

WASHINGTON — The Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. announced Monday a program to acquire low-interest, long-term mortgages now held by U.S. thrift institutions and convert them into securities that could be used as collateral for loans or sold to institutional investors.

Liquidity Squeeze Would Be Eased Through Swaps of Old Mortgages

thrifts, or loan associations would take large losses if forced to sell individual mortgages in their portfolio.

Phil Avenengo, senior vice president of Suburban Savings & Loan Association of Wayne, N.J., said: "We can pick up the phone and sell a participation certificate in a matter of minutes. We can't do that with \$5 million, \$10 million, or \$15 million of mortgage loans."

U.K. Output Off 0.4% in Quarter

LONDON — Britain's output of goods and services continued to decline in the second quarter, falling 0.4 percent — slightly less than the 0.6 percent drop reported in the first three months — according to preliminary figures released Tuesday by the Central Statistical Office.

The mortgage corporation has been to buy freshly written conventional mortgages and package them into securities that are sold to trust departments of commercial banks, insurance companies, pension funds and other institutional investors.

COMPANY REPORTS

Revenue and profits, in millions, are in local currencies unless otherwise indicated.

Australia

Woodside Petroleum
1st Half 1981 1980
Revenue 4.48 3.50
Profits 1.28 0.58
Per Share 0.03 0.01

Britain/Netherlands

Unilever
2nd Quarter 1981 1980
Revenue 2,880 2,540
Profits 209.6 162.9
Per Share 0.361 0.294

Sweden

Electrolux
1st Half 1981 1980
Revenue 9,520 8,140
Profits 251 511

United States

Hewlett-Packard A
3rd Quarter 1981 1980
Revenue 936.0 810.0
Profits 81.0 70.0
Per Share 0.66 0.58

West Germany

Wiesbaden, West Germany
1st Half 1981 1980
Revenue 2,580 2,230
Profits 216.0 189.0
Per Share 1.28 1.58

Fee to Be Charged

Given the differences in rates, savings and loan associations would take large losses if forced to sell individual mortgages in their portfolio.

The new program would permit the institutions to convert packages of mortgages into readily marketable "participation certificates," or bulk mortgages, securities that are put together, for a fee, by the mortgage corporation.

The announcement followed a decision by the Federal Home Loan Bank Board to make it easier for selling thrift institutions to sell old mortgages.

The bank board put out for public comment last week a proposal to allow federally chartered sav-

ing and loan associations to spread over many years any losses from the sale of old mortgages. Under present practice, they have to record the loss immediately.

Since most associations are already in the red, recording a loss in the year the sale is made could seriously erode net worth.

Noting that the program could bring about "tremendous changes" in the savings and loan industry,

July Producer Prices Up 1% in W. Germany

WIESBADEN, West Germany — West German producer prices rose 1 percent in July, a gain of 8.1 percent from a year earlier, the Federal Statistics Office said Wednesday. Producer prices rose 0.4 percent in June, for a 7.3-percent increase from a year earlier.

Excluding North Sea oil and gas production, total output was actually lower in the second quarter this year than in 1975, it added.

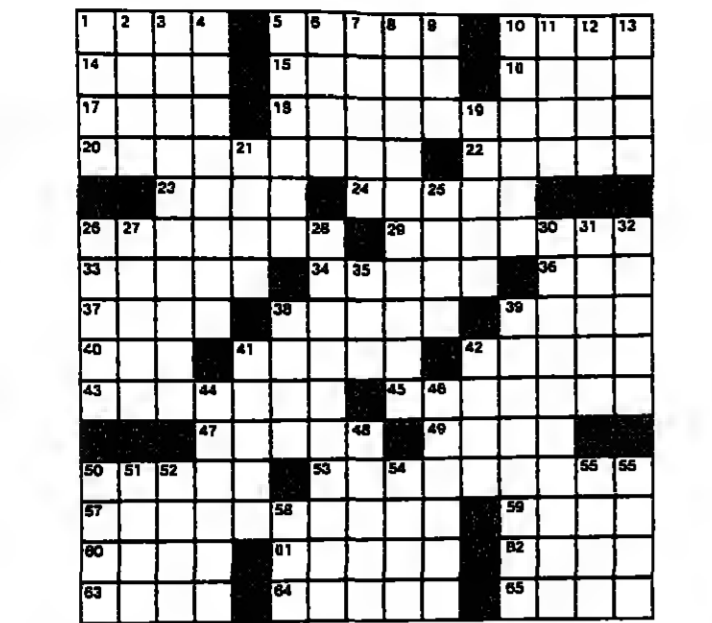
Development Bank Chief

TOKYO — Masao Fujioka, an adviser to the Finance Ministry and the Export-Import Bank of Japan, has been elected the president of the Asian Development Bank, the Finance Ministry announced Tuesday. He succeeds Torachi Yoshida.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene T. Maleska



- ACROSS
1 California
5 Moistens
10 W. Va. product
14 Like 2, 4, 6, 8
15 Predecessor of febrile
16 Arrived near Paris
17 Parched
18 "Anything but"
20 Meredith Willson's "78"

WEATHER

Table with columns for High, Low, and conditions for various cities including ALGARVE, ALGIERS, AMSTERDAM, ANKARA, ATHENS, AUCKLAND, BANGKOK, BEIRUT, BELGRADE, BERLIN, BOSTON, BRUSSELS, BUCHAREST, BUDAPEST, BUENOS AIRES, CAIRO, CASABLANCA, CHICAGO, COPENHAGEN, COSTA RICA, DAMASCUS, DUBLIN, EDINBURGH, FLORENCE, FRANKFURT, GENEVA, HELSINKI, HONG KONG, HOUSTON, ISTANBUL, JERUSALEM, LAS PALMAS, LIMA, LISBON, LONDON, LOS ANGELES.

ADVERTISEMENT INTERNATIONAL FUNDS August 18, 1981

List of international funds with descriptions and prices, including ALLIANCE INT'L FUND, BANK JULIUS BAER & CO, BANK VON BERNST & CO, BRITANNIA, CAPITAL INTERNATIONAL, CREDIT SUISSE, DIV INVESTMENT FRANKFURT, FIDELITY, G.T. MANAGEMENT LTD, INTERNATIONAL INCOME FUND, JARDINE FLEMING, LLOYDS BANK, RBC INVESTMENT, ROTHSCHILD ASSET, SOPID GROUPE GENEVA, SWISS BANK CORP, UNION BANK OF SWITZERLAND, UNION INVESTMENT.



Giants Defeat Pirates, 5-1; Morgan Sparkles

PITTSBURGH — Joe Morgan provided two key defensive plays and doubled home three runs with a lead-off home run...

Tigers 12, Twins 2
In the American League, in Detroit, Lou Whitaker's two-run single...

White Sox 4, Yankees 1
In New York, Greg Luzinski singled in a run in the first and hit his 11th home run...

Royals 5, Blue Jays 3
In Kansas City, Mo., George Brett hit a triple and a two-run homer and Toronto committed three errors during a five-run fourth...

BASEBALL ROUNDUP

atic ninth, second baseman Morgan snared a leadoff line drive by Tim Lincecum...

Expos 6, Astros 2
In Houston, Andre Dawson drove in three runs and Tim Lincecum and Ray Reisz drove in...

Cubs 3, Dodgers 1
In Chicago, Doug Bird pitched a six-inning shutout...

Cardinals 1
In St. Louis, Glenn Brummers' force-play grounder scored Tommy Herr from third with one out...



All-star catcher Gary Carter of Montreal tagged out Houston's Tony Scott on a play at the plate Monday at the Astrodome...

The Soccer Scene West German Recipe: Fit for a Cup?

By Rob Hughes
International Herald Tribune
LONDON — A Cordon Bleu chef, or perhaps an elite bartender...

Lap Dog
Fresh reports are surfacing from Barcelona quoting Bernd Schuster...

Schuster chooses to turn up the heat under a problem that has simmered since last spring...

So Endeth the Lesson
Derwall says he made a spontaneous decision and might otherwise not have excluded the boy wonder...

tion. There, too, Schuster met resentment among the players. I know Schuster only superficially...

Basketball Secrets Falling Gently on Deaf Ears

By George Vecsey
New York Times Service
NEW YORK — Mike Glenn of the New York Knicks lived in two worlds when he was growing up...

Glenn likes to tease the young man about his slender build, calling him 'Birdman'...

Retaining the Affection
Glenn has found a way to return the affection. For the last two summers he has sponsored a free camp at Mill Neck Manor...

Whistle: 'Not Much of a Problem'
'There are some difficulties," Glenn admits. "You can usually feel the vibrations of the referee's whistle..."

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PARIS
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GAUMONT COLISEE - IMPERIAL PATHE - CLUJNT PALACE
7 FAIRBASSENS - GAUMONT LES HALLES

Major League Standings

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes American League and National League standings.

Table with columns for Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Includes American League and National League standings.

Baseball Line Scores

Table with columns for Team, Runs, Hits, Errors. Includes American League and National League line scores.

Lendl a Repeat Titlist In Canada Open Tennis

The Associated Press
MONTREAL — Fourth-seeded Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia took his second straight Canadian Open men's tennis title Monday...

A 'Road Map' to the Grooved Golf Swing

Sydney — A 50-year-old golfer's stroke of genius after a poor round may help fellow sufferers...

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Observer

Searing With Praise

By Russell Baker

NEW YORK — The current issue of Harper's magazine contains a tatty article on our current literary biggies, people like Joyce Carol Oates, William Styron, Norman Mailer, John Updike and so on and on, the burden of which is that they are only 13th-raters whose skill at promotional flimflam has persuaded the world and themselves that they are a new race of Tolstoy's.



Baker

You can cheer this argument or pass it with a yawn. Since most books nowadays seem to be manufactured for people who don't like to read, it's hard to see that the Tolstoy shortage matters much to the public. I did pause, however, over a long passage denouncing the marlarky which these writers compose to hail each other's latest books. The word they invariably use, says Harper's, is "important," as in (modest form) "this is an important book" and (high-flying-billie form) "this is the most important book since Pilgrim's Progress."

Here, I believe, Harper's is not only wrong, but also wrong-headed. I speak from long experience of composing breathless advertising salutes to writers' books. I am experienced enough to know that "important" is the last thing in the dictionary you should call a book unless you want to destroy it.

The first thing you learn about composing blurbs for other writers is not to call the book "important" unless you want to kill the sale. Somebody, I forget who, has said that, to be completely happy, it is not enough for the contemporary writer that his own book succeed, but a friend's book must also fail.

When a writer wants to promote another writer's book, you can always tell it right away. He will say that the book is either "searing" or "stunning." It is well known in the blurb trade that "searing" and "stunning" are catnip to book buyers. It's hard to say why. There can't be many people who really want to curl up with a book and rise up badly burned or looking poleaxed, but "searing" and "stun-

ning" are the magic words nonetheless. If a writer desperately wants other writers' books to fail, why, you may ask, does he freely bestow the "searing" and "stunning"?

Next year he will publish a book of his own. It will be sent to writers whose books he is praising this year. He wants those writers to declare his own book "searing." He lives in dread that they will, instead, call it "important."

In praising other writers' books, the writer must mind his step. For several years my own policy was to praise anything on condition that I did not have to read it. After praising 15 consecutive books as "searing," I was reprimanded by the author of the 16th for calling it "stunning."

"You hated my book, didn't you?" he said. "I couldn't tell him that, of course. The truth was that I was tired of writing 'searing' and afraid of boring my public, so had switched to 'stunning,' which I considered just as effective. The author saw it only as a subtle slur. When my own book was published the following year, a history of pillow fighting among Victorian children — he took revenge by calling it "important."

You cannot take these attacks passively and turn the other cheek. The book game is not Sunday school. I waited for my enemy's next book, on which he had labored for three years. It was a painstakingly researched study of the groundkeeping crew who maintained Ohio State University's football field. He titled it "No Moss on the 50-Yard Line."

To call it "an important book" would have been too soft on him. I gave him the knife in the solar plexus and wrote, "if you liked 'The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire,' you'll love 'No Moss on the 50-Yard Line.'"

The sale was so disastrous that his typewriter was repossessed and President Reagan let him fall through the safety net. Since then authors have refused to send me any new books at all to praise. As a result it has been several years since I have had an important book to leave unread.

New York Times Service

Curtain Keeps Rising for Dickens

By Michiko Kakutani

NEW YORK — As a young man, Charles Dickens dreamed of becoming a great actor, and though he never realized that ambition, he put his mimetic genius to good use in his novels. According to biographers, he would assume the roles of various characters as he wrote, muttering fiercely to himself as he jotted down their words. Occasionally, he would rush over to a mirror and gesture and make faces; when he returned to his desk, he would carefully copy down what he had seen.

The result was a highly visual literature animated by a rich dramatic sense — literature that has proved particularly adaptable to the stage. In addition to the much-awarded eight-hour production of "Nicholas Nickleby" next month, Broadway will have several musical celebrations of Dickens. Following "Copperfield," which closed last spring, "Great Expectations" is scheduled to arrive this winter, and at Christmas a revival of "Oliver!" will begin a U.S. tour culminating in New York. "In a sense Dickens was the dramatic literature of the 19th century," says the adapter of "Nicholas Nickleby," David Edgar. "He's a novelist who slips very easily into the theater."

Just what it is that makes for such fluent translation to the stage? In addition to the extravagant comedy and pathos — a certain heightened sensitivity to the possibilities of life that lends itself to the musical form in his novels possess a strong narrative sense, conjuring a world of scoundrels and heroes as populous as Shakespeare's.

Particularly in the early books, those characters are delineated not by modern, stream-of-consciousness techniques, but by behavior and physical description. A nervous tic, a telling gesture, a verbal idiosyncrasy — Uriah Heep's clammy hands, Bob Cratchit's tremulous voice, Little Nell's homely dresses — these are devices Dickens used to sketch a character's state of mind, and on stage they serve as elaborate stage directions. "A writer like Dickens who uses outside representations of people and scenery and events rather than trying to portray a character's inner life," says George Ford, the author of "Dickens and His Readers," "is half way to the camera or the stage."

Indeed, some critics argue that Dickens, who died 25 years before the invention of motion pictures, anticipated a variety of cinematic techniques — which accounts for the 80 or so television and movie productions sustained by his novels. The Russian director Sergei Eisenstein once argued that 20th-century film was indebted to Dickens' pioneering use of montage-like sequences, and many of his books actually possess narrative equivalents of such devices as the long tracking shot and the zoom.

"He is a very cinematic writer," says Edgar, "and the reason 'Nicholas Nickleby' works in the theater is we're doing it in a very cinematic way. We have very short scenes — about 70, I think — and we're constantly doing the theatrical equivalent of cutting. We've been forced to be very episodic and draw on a number of theatrical techniques developed in the '60s and '70s in response to the immediacy of film. It's the feeling that a play can jump from one scene to another."

Edgar's version for the RSC, of course, is hardly the first stage adaptation of "Nicholas Nickleby." In 1838, even before the serialized novel was completed, a production was mounted in London, and during the next two years nearly a dozen variations were staged.

In the days before strict copyright laws, theatrical adapters, ever on the lookout for new material, freely appropriated the work of popular novelists, and Dickens whose serialized books created the same kind of expectation that hit television series generate today — was unquestionably the most popular writer of them all. According to F. Durbey-Fawcett's study "Dickens the Dramatist," about 80 theatrical productions based on his work appeared during the 10-year period between 1834 and 1844 alone.

Although these dramatizations clearly contributed to his renown, Dickens frequently railed against this piracy of his work. Not only were many of the adaptations clumsy and distorted, they also detracted from his own rather indifferent efforts as a dramatist. Dickens' earliest aspirations, in fact, were focused on the theater, and his passion for drama went unconsciously inform all his later work. As a child, he wrote pieces for a toy theater, entertained his family with skits, and with his natural gift for mimicry became a leader in school dramatics. "I had a strong perception of character and oddity and a natural power of reproducing in my own person what I observed in others," he wrote a friend, unwittingly describing both his thespian talents and his gifts as a novelist.

While working as a court reporter, Dickens



Dickens: Mimetic genius.

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